

# Niagara Heritage of Hope and Service, Inc.

## Home of Historic Holy Trinity



### 2017 ... a Year of Change and Growth

By Marg Domagalski

For those of you who know me, I am one who looks at the glass half full. I must share, though, 2017 brought about a year of challenge and change that I did not even expect. The changes required growing pains and for me to rely on my faith that I embraced with fervor.

Even with the challenges that we faced in 2017 to our organization, to the Board and with core volunteers, the changes were embraced.

Let me start by sending a special thank

### Community Thrift Store

By Melanie Loss

***"Whatsoever you do for the least of my people, that you do unto Me"***

That sentiment was particularly appropriate this year at our Community Thrift Store and Donation Center as we had the privilege of assisting several young families not only recovering from local fire tragedies but escaping the devastation of the late 2017 hurricanes in Texas and Florida. They had lost everything. Our Niagara Falls area is the native home to many people who move South for jobs or climate and it can quickly become a

safe haven when that life is broken. The path to recovery is not easy for these families, but providing a few basic necessities like clean clothes and warm bedding that most people take for granted, is a small step in the right direction.

That shirt, or plate, or blanket that outlived its usefulness with its original owner, begins a precious second life with customers who are forced to re-build theirs.

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### Upcoming Events

Friday Church tours continue in December on 1, 8, 15 and 22 from 6-8 pm

A Christmas concert by Gary Sage Studios on December 10 at 4:00 pm with light refreshments for sale and a basket auction

### Merry Christmas!





## College Course = New Board Member

By Ken Colella

Let me start out by introducing myself, I am Ken Colella. I am the current treasurer for Niagara Heritage of Hope and Service. I found myself here in an unusual fashion. I am a Junior at Niagara University. In the Spring, I was enrolled in Management 271 - Principles of Management. The class partners with a community member where the students operate as a consulting group for the entire semester. Our client happened to be Niagara Heritage of Hope and Service.

At the beginning of the semester, I had the opportunity to visit the beautiful campus of Historic Holy Trinity and meet all of the great people who are involved with the organization. My team was the "Facilities" group, tasked with working on the buildings of the campus. Our main highlight was renovating the former Holy Name Room, repurposing it into a game room. Our first task was to clear out the space from years of clutter.

Over several weekends, teams of volunteers washed the ceiling, walls and floors. It was then ready to prime and paint. It took us three coats of paint and many hours before we were finished. The final step was arranging the gaming pieces - pool table, foosball and air hockey. There is even a space for video gaming. The space is now inviting and ready for youth and visitors to relax in and spend their spare time.

After the class ended, I stayed in touch with members of the board and in July was voted in as Treasurer and Board Member. With my expanding knowledge of business and view from my generation, I am excited to help Historic Holy Trinity and the community move into the new age of technology and enhance our ways of communication. I hope to meet all of our fantastic supporters and volunteers who help keep us progressing forward! Have a blessed Holiday season!



## Retreat Center = A New Concept Born

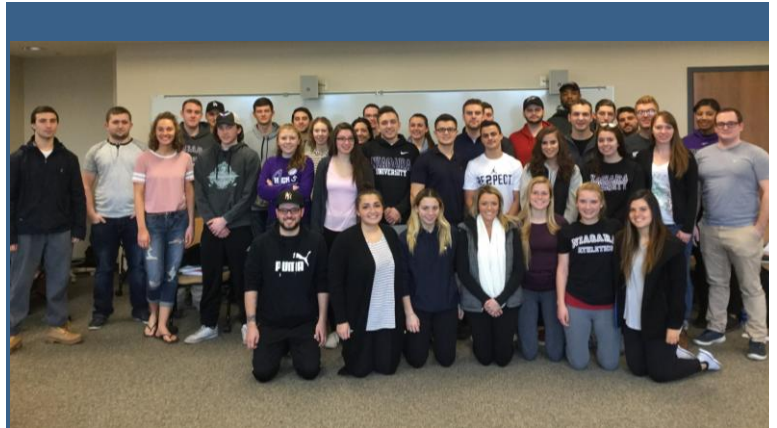
By Florian C. Wasiak

Since Niagara Heritage of Hope and Service acquired Historic Holy Trinity in 2009, the Board of Directors, volunteers, and community members have been always looking for ways to repurpose the buildings to support our goals and mission. And we have proudly done so with great stride.

However, it was just this past summer when my father had passed away that a new concept was conceived to further expand our outreach in providing additional services to the local community along with maximizing the continued use of the complex.

Historic Holy Trinity was the main focus for my father's wake and the gathering venue for all of our families, friends, and neighbors; the organization hosted the wake in the church building. Although this is not unusual for our current offering of services, it was that the current retreat center (formally known as the convent) that was repurposed to accommodate many of our out of town families and friends in one place with ease and comfort over a period of a few days during this event.

With the convenience of local providers and vendors, my family and I were able to, with extreme confidence, rely on the services of:



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& Service, Inc.**

**Home of**

**Historic Holy Trinity**

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## NU's MGT 271 Class Helped to Support Our Mission

**By the Strategy Team**

This semester, Niagara University's Management Principles 271 class has had the unique opportunity to partner, once again, with Niagara Heritage of Hope and Service, Home to Historic Holy Trinity. After we toured the complex, we discovered the potential for this National Landmark to bring the community together. As a class, eight teams, led by two projects managers, helped revitalize the complex to make improvements for the future. Each team had a specific focus within the organization: Business Center, Retreat Center, Church, School, Volunteer, Marketing, Strategy, and Funding.

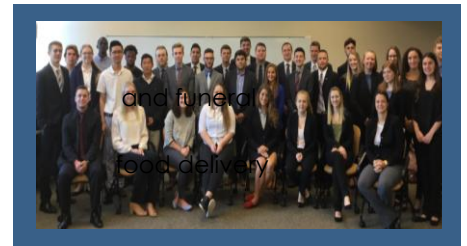
Hello! We are the Strategy team writing on behalf of the class. We have had the opportunity to work hand in hand with Marg Domagalski, President, the Board of Directors, and all of the project teams. Along with creating a strategic plan, we had the fun task of designing the Christmas Card that you are receiving with this newsletter.

The Business Center team focused their efforts on sprucing up several rooms in the Business Center (former rectory). The goal for the organization is to have an overflow of accommodations for guests when the Retreat Center is at capacity. Focused on identifying all of the requirements needed to open the Retreat Center (former convent) in 2018, the Retreat Center team completed several rooms that have been in progress for some time. Dedicated to finding out additional information regarding

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- Labuda funeral home for the wake arrangements
- Carmine Bianco Caterers for necessary requirements
- Picarillo florist for floral needs



This experience has solidified for me that a future goal for our mission and purpose would be to establish a "destination funeral" platform, which can be marketed and delivered with the ease that it did for my family and myself. It really became a "one stop shopping" experience as we all experienced private bedrooms, bathroom and shower facilities, kitchen and a large dining room, living room space, ample secured parking, and Wi-Fi so you can remain connected.

I look forward to working with the Board to make this a reality in the future.

### Community Thrift Store continued from Page 1

While most of our regular customers do not share their personal stories it is a blessing to see their joy when they purchase a pot to boil water for the macaroni and cheese that their kids love or old Christmas ornaments or sentimental figurines that remind them of their grandparents. Those in need and bargain-hunters alike are all welcome at the Community Thrift Store.

For that reason, we are prayerfully grateful for the generous donations we receive every week. The items and cash

that keep the store in business provide an important service to our community. While the meager weekly revenues from the store do not even come near the expenses of the complex, the spiritual assets are overflowing. Your donations support our Christian mission to make a positive difference for the community in the grand tradition of the generations of Polish Catholics who lived and loved in this region.

The all-volunteer staff at Community Thrift Store and Donation Center is ready to serve every Saturday (except on Holiday weekends) from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

## 2017 ... A Year continued from Page 1

Highlighting their accomplishments: a redesigned website, a repurposed the Holy Name Society Room, expanded the History Room, secured the donation of several clothing racks from local retail vendors for the thrift store, created an online volunteer tracker, designed our organizational logo, held two fundraisers and raised \$500. Their impact will be felt for years.

In April, we lost our great friend John Sanborn. Not only was he a familiar face around the complex, he was a wealth of knowledge and instrumental to our daily operations. Our grounds never looked as good as John maintained them. We miss him dearly!

June brought YouthWorks back for another summer, opening the door to another year of service, learning, poverty simulations and Thursday community picnics.

We did our usual ... summer tours, summer fundraising events, concerts and dinners.

The Fall presented us with a unique situation, working with Professor Mitch Alegre and his Management Class again. Since September, we have now had an additional 40 students on board for the entire semester. The Strategy team did a great job highlighting their accomplishments. Students from Niagara Catholic held their day retreats at the complex, learning and serving. It's been a another great year engaging with the youth in our community.

Another year older, our buildings are seeing the effects of aging - failing boiler systems, leaky roofs and drafty windows. We are currently researching funding options to replace and repair.

Lastly, I would like to take a moment and pay tribute to our 4-legged friend Rex who is no longer here with us. He was an integral part of the organization, our sentinel dog and made it a point to greet everyone who stepped foot on the complex. I'm sure that he thought you were all there for him. He will be missed as well.

Even with the changes and challenges faced this year, the one constant light that keeps us going is our family, our friends, our community and all of you. Your support throughout the last year has kept us forging ahead with our mission.

Thank you for your donations to the Community Thrift Store, your monetary gifts, supporting our events, and keeping us in your prayers. Without people like you, we could not make all this possible.

## NU's MGT 271 continued from Page 3

the artifacts inside the church, the Church team's greatest accomplishments were identifying the artists who painted the choir screens and murals well as creating a history room for Saint John Paul II and the Venerable Father Nelson Baker. Concentrating on making the building more accessible for future events and the Community Thrift Store, the School team's focal point was to research funding for the replacement of the fire escapes and furnace.

Recruiting people to assist in different events and hands on projects was the Volunteer team's main objective. Their focus was to find a way to keep volunteers engaged for the long term by partnering with various Niagara University clubs. The Marketing team focused their efforts on creating a marketing plan which will enable the Board to more effectively advertise events and activities. They had the fun job of creating various posters and social media posts publicizing the organization's events during this last semester. In addition to identifying new ways to raise funds, the Funding team was instrumental in the successful basket auction held on the Niagara University campus in November, which raised nearly \$300. Their focus was to help the Board with their annual Matching Funds outreach by introducing additional businesses that may have been unfamiliar with the mission of Niagara Heritage of Hope and Service.

We have thoroughly enjoyed working in close relationship with the Board and Historic Holy Trinity. We look forward to the future by continuing to assist Historic Holy Trinity to achieve their goals of helping our community and providing family-friendly events year round.



## Looking Forward to 2018

Stay tuned for more information regarding the opening of our Retreat Center.

We welcome new volunteers to help us continue to achieve our mission.

Wishing you and your family a blessed Christmas, a happy, healthy and prosperous 2018!

*Board of Directors  
Marg, Florian, Eda, and Ken*

